

Notice of Allowability

Application No.

09/882,195

Examiner

Ellen C. Tran

Applicant(s)

STEPHANY ET AL.

Art Unit

2134

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address--

All claims being allowable, PROSECUTION ON THE MERITS IS (OR REMAINS) CLOSED in this application. If not included herewith (or previously mailed), a Notice of Allowance (PTOL-85) or other appropriate communication will be mailed in due course. **THIS NOTICE OF ALLOWABILITY IS NOT A GRANT OF PATENT RIGHTS.** This application is subject to withdrawal from issue at the initiative of the Office or upon petition by the applicant. See 37 CFR 1.313 and MPEP 1308.

1. ☒ This communication is responsive to 23 February 2005.
2. ☒ The allowed claim(s) is/are 1-16.
3. ☒ The drawings filed on 23 February 2005 are accepted by the Examiner.
4. ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
 - a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some* c) ☐ None of the:
 1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this national stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* Certified copies not received: _____.

Applicant has THREE MONTHS FROM THE "MAILING DATE" of this communication to file a reply complying with the requirements noted below. Failure to timely comply will result in ABANDONMENT of this application.

THIS THREE-MONTH PERIOD IS NOT EXTENDABLE.

5. ☐ A SUBSTITUTE OATH OR DECLARATION must be submitted. Note the attached EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT or NOTICE OF INFORMAL PATENT APPLICATION (PTO-152) which gives reason(s) why the oath or declaration is deficient.
6. ☐ CORRECTED DRAWINGS (as "replacement sheets") must be submitted.
 - (a) ☐ including changes required by the Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) attached
 - 1) ☐ hereto or 2) ☐ to Paper No./Mail Date _____.
 - (b) ☐ including changes required by the attached Examiner's Amendment / Comment or in the Office action of Paper No./Mail Date _____.

Identifying indicia such as the application number (see 37 CFR 1.84(c)) should be written on the drawings in the front (not the back) of each sheet. Replacement sheet(s) should be labeled as such in the header according to 37 CFR 1.121(d).
7. ☐ DEPOSIT OF and/or INFORMATION about the deposit of BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL must be submitted. Note the attached Examiner's comment regarding REQUIREMENT FOR THE DEPOSIT OF BIOLOGICAL MATERIAL.

Attachment(s)

1. ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
2. ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
3. ☐ Information Disclosure Statements (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
4. ☐ Examiner's Comment Regarding Requirement for Deposit
of Biological Material
5. ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
6. ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413),
Paper No./Mail Date _____
7. ☒ Examiner's Amendment/Comment
8. ☒ Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance
9. ☐ Other _____

By [Signature]

Reasons for Allowance

1. In response to amendment filed on 3 February 2005, the amendment to the claims is accepted.
2. An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. The attached amendment corrects the grammatical error in claim 1. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it **MUST** be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

In claim 1, letter (e) the word “encryption” on page –2- line 16 has been replaced, with “encrypted” and the “the” after the original word “encryption” has been deleted.

Allowable Subject Matter

3. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: Claims 1-16 are allowed, in view of amendment to the independent claims as well as arguments beginning on page 6, “It is respectfully submitted that column 6, lines 49-58 disclosed moving the additional data (watermark) into various locations of a signal. It does not disclose, “converting an image into a 3-D wire mesh”. It does not mention a 3D wire mesh and is entirely restricted to a 2-dimensional signal”.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled “Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance”.

Art Unit: 2134

4. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Ellen C Tran whose telephone number is

(571) 272-3842. The examiner can normally be reached from 6:30 am to 3:30 pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Gregory A Morse can be reached on (571) 272-3838. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Ellen Tran
Patent Examiner
Technology Center 2134
11 June 2005



GREGORY MORSE
SUPERVISOR
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for authenticating animation, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) converting ~~the captured~~ a captured image into [[a]] three-dimensional wire mesh data representing a three-dimensional exterior shape of the image having a plurality of line segments for permitting animation of the image;

(b) providing movement data, which directs movement of the wire mesh data, and texture data indicating the covering for the wire mesh;

(c) electronically transmitting the three-dimensional wire mesh data, texture data and movement data;

(d) encrypting the movement data; and

(e) electronically transmitting the ~~encryption~~ encrypted movement data for verifying that the animation is unaltered during transmission from its source.

2. (Original) The method as in claim 1 further comprising the step of encrypting the texture data before electronically transmitting.

3. (Original) The method as in claim 2 further comprising the step of encrypting the wire mesh data before electronically transmitting.

4. (Original) The method as in claim 3, wherein step (e) includes transmitting via the Internet.

5. (Original) The method as in claim 4, wherein step (a) includes converting the captured image by an animation processor.

6. (Original) The method as in claim 5, wherein step (c) includes transmitting via the Internet.

7. (Original) The method as in claim 3, wherein step (c) includes manually distributing in lieu of electronically distributing.

8. (Original) The method as in claim 7, wherein step (e) includes manually distributing in lieu of electronically distributing.

9. (Currently Amended) A method for authenticating animation, the method comprising the steps of:

(a) converting ~~the captured~~ a captured image into [[a]] three-dimensional wire mesh data representing a three-dimensional exterior shape of the image having a plurality of interconnecting segments for permitting animation of the image;

(b) providing movement data, which directs movement of the three-dimensional wire mesh data, and texture data indicating the covering for the wire mesh;

(c) electronically transmitting the wire mesh data, texture data and movement data;

(d) encrypting a representation of the movement data which representation includes less bits of data than the movement data ; and

(e) electronically transmitting the encrypted representation of the movement data for verifying that the animation is unaltered during transmission from its source.

10. (Original) The method as in claim 9 further comprising the step of encrypting a representation of the texture data before electronically transmitting, which representation includes less bits of data than the texture data.

11. (Original) The method as in claim 10 further comprising the step of encrypting a representation of the wire mesh data before electronically transmitting, which representation includes less bits of data than the wire mesh data.

12. (Original) The method as in claim 11, wherein step (e) includes transmitting via the Internet.

13. (Original) The method as in claim 12, wherein step (a) includes converting the captured image by an animation processor.

14. (Original) The method as in claim 13, wherein step (c) includes transmitting via the Internet.

15. (Original) The method as in claim 11, wherein step (c) includes manually distributing in lieu of electronically distributing.

16. (Original) The method as in claim 15, wherein step (e) includes manually distributing in lieu of electronically distributing.